

REMARKS

Before entry of this Amendment and Response, the status of the application according to the pending Office action is as follows:

- Claims 1-5 are allowed.
- Claims 6, 8, 10, 12-14, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,505,780 to Sowards (“Sowards”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,592,704 to Benzing, II (“Benzing”).
- Claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sowards and Benzing in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,123,992 to Kanda *et al.* (“Kanda”).
- Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sowards and Benzing in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,304,266 to Becking (“Becking”).

Applicant appreciates the Examiner’s courtesy in granting Applicant’s representative the telephonic interview held on July 19, 2005. The amendments and remarks set forth herein are consistent with those discussed during the interview. Specifically, claims 6-13 and 16-19 have been amended to include the allowed subject matter of claim 1.

Applicant hereby cancels claim 14 without prejudice and amends claims 6-13 and 16-19 to depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowed claim 1. Support for the amendments can be found in the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added thereby.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection of claims 6-13 and 16-19, and passage of claims 1-13 and 16-19 to allowance.

1. Claims 6, 8, 10, 12-14, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sowards in view of Benzing. Applicant hereby cancels claim 14, thereby rendering the rejection moot with respect to that claim. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as applied to the remaining claims, as amended.

Claims 6, 8, 10, 12-13, and 16-19 have been amended to depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowed claim 1, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 8, 10, 12-13, and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

2. Claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sowards and Benzing in further view of Kanda. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as applied to the claims, as amended.

Claims 7 and 9 have been amended to depend indirectly from allowed claim 1, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

3. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seward and Benzing in further view of Becking. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as applied to the claims, as amended.

Claim 11 has been amended to depend indirectly from allowed claim 1, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and allowance of claims 1-13 and 16-19 in due course. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative by telephone at the number listed below to discuss any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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